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Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council held an open debate on 29 October 2003 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Thirty-seven speakers expressed their views on the issue.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the summary of the views expressed (see annex I), along with answers to the question posed during the meeting to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see annex II), circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**
President of the Security Council

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Annex I

Summary by Ambassador Negroponte, United States representative to the United Nations, in his national capacity, of the open debate on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on 29 October 2003

The Security Council held an open debate on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, on 29 October 2003. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council on the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement the resolution. Amy Smythe, Senior Gender Adviser for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided the Council with an operational perspective of the implementation of the resolution and spoke about lessons learned and remaining challenges.

At the request of Member States and the group of friends of resolution 1325 (2000), the United States of America has compiled the summary of key points below. While not comprehensive, this list represents our understanding of the main messages that came out of the discussion on 29 October.

(a) Council Members and non-members alike acknowledged that progress has been made towards implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). However, many speakers commented that much more needs to be done before it can be said that a gender perspective has been incorporated into all United Nations work and that the resolution has been fully implemented;

(b) There was an understanding that progress must be made by the Security Council, Member States, parties to conflict and the Secretariat;

(c) Speakers called for better follow-up and made a number of suggestions on how to achieve it, including the possibility of naming a Security Council member to be responsible for tracking implementation;

(d) Speakers acknowledged the important role played by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and by the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

(e) Speakers acknowledged the valuable role that civil society actors and non-governmental organizations have played, and will continue to play, in advancing implementation;

(f) The value of bringing a field perspective to Council discussions was stressed;

(g) Security Council members acknowledged that the Council needs to do more to include references to gender, where appropriate, in its resolutions, mission mandates and trip reports, as well as to meet with women in the field when travelling on council missions;

(h) Speakers noted the need for more women to serve as peacekeepers, military observers and civilian police and understood their national responsibilities to identify and nominate women for these critical duties;

(i) It was also emphasized that the Secretariat must do better at assigning women to senior positions, including as special representatives of the Secretary-General and deputy special representatives. A number of States highlighted that there is only one woman currently serving as a special representative and noted that the level of participation by women is not acceptable. Speakers also recognized the responsibility of Member States to recommend qualified women as candidates for these senior posts;

(j) Member States positively acknowledged that the Gender Adviser post in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been filled on an interim basis but stressed the importance of the post being filled on a permanent basis as quickly as possible;

(k) Speakers also appreciated the importance of the role that full-time gender advisers in the field play in making real progress on gender mainstreaming. Several speakers also called for gender advisers to be assigned to all peacekeeping missions;

(l) Speakers emphasized the importance of gender training for United Nations peacekeeping personnel. It was also noted that States that contribute civilian police, military observers and peacekeeping forces should provide pre-deployment briefings on gender awareness;

(m) Several speakers noted the important role that regional organizations can play in helping to implement resolution 1325 (2000);

(n) Speakers noted the need for more systematic documentation of the role that women have played in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts;

(o) Member States acknowledged the important contributions that the Secretary-General's report and the report of the independent panel of experts have provided to efforts to advance implementation and indicated that they were looking forward to the presentation of the Secretary-General's 2004 report.

Annex II

Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations addressed to the President of the Security Council

During the open meeting on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (women, peace and security), you requested that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations prepare written answers to questions raised during the afternoon part of the meeting.

To this end, please find attached the questions raised by Member States in the afternoon of 29 October regarding peacekeeping operations, with accompanying answers (see enclosure). The first three questions, raised by Australia, were addressed to the United Nations Secretariat as a whole; you may wish to request inputs directly from the other departments.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marie **Guéhenno**
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

Enclosure

Questions raised by Member States during the open meeting on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on 29 October 2003

Questions raised by Australia and addressed to the United Nations Secretariat

1. What are the main hurdles in achieving the implementing of resolution 1325 (2000) in current peacekeeping operations?

Some of the main hurdles in achieving the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in current peacekeeping operations relate to the low number of women personnel in missions, lack of structures to mainstream gender and poor understanding among staff of how to integrate a gender dimension in their daily work.

Women currently represent one third of all professional staff in peacekeeping missions, and the number of women decreases with increasing seniority. This is a problem that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is addressing in-house. However, we recognize that we need to be more effective in the coming year in identifying suitable women candidates for senior positions and in recruiting Professional-level women in missions. It is hoped that Member States will continue their efforts to provide more women civilian police and military personnel to peacekeeping operations. Member States also need to include women and men with experience in gender-based crimes to help us address the high rates of violence against women that are common in post-conflict situations.

Multidimensional missions with gender experts, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Kosovo, have made significant achievements in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). The hurdles that such missions are facing relate more to their work with outside partners and the challenge of helping such partners move beyond paper commitments to concrete implementation of the resolution. To strengthen systems to mainstream gender at the mission level, the Department will establish in the year to come a network of gender focal points.

The Department is currently producing a number of guidelines on how to integrate a gender perspective in the different functional areas of its peacekeeping operations. This should help staff take account of gender issues in their day-to-day work. To this end, a gender resource package is in the final stages of being developed. It will cover a wide range of topics, from general information on gender concepts and practical checklists highlighting gender issues in peacekeeping to guidelines on establishing gender units in the field. In addition, in the coming year we will produce a field manual on gender issues for military commanders, as well as one on gender issues in mine action.

2. Has the United Nations Secretariat put into place any institutional mechanisms to monitor progress made in implementation of resolution 1325 (2000)?

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, which is coordinating United Nations agency efforts on women, peace and security. In addition, the Department

established an action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which will be updated in the coming months.

3. **What efforts are being made to ensure that the recommendations in resolution 1325 (2000) are mainstreamed into the work programmes of all United Nations agencies that have a role in conflict and post-conflict situations?**

The post of Gender Adviser at Department of Peacekeeping Operations headquarters has been filled in the interim, while the recruitment process goes ahead. In addition, new missions, such as those in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, have planned for gender expertise among their staff. The network of gender focal points to be established this year will assist the Department in monitoring its progress in implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

Questions raised by Canada and addressed to Mr. Guehenno

4. **What are Mr. Guéhenno's views on the prospect of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations undertaking an initiative similar to that of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to facilitate a stronger integration of gender considerations in the activities of the Department?**

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations established an action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which will be updated in the coming months. The review of the action plan will be completed after the Department has taken stock of current gender mainstreaming activities at Headquarters and in the field.

5. **We would be interested in further information on efforts undertaken to ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in all training modules and not confined to gender-specific training modules. We believe this would contribute to tackling this issue.**

At present, the military Training and Evaluation Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has produced a lengthy generic gender and peacekeeping training module that covers a range of topics, including gender awareness and gender and human rights. These gender modules are currently part of a standardized generic training package for military personnel and civilian police, to be used in pre-deployment training in Member States. Discussions are under way with the military Training and Evaluation Service to ensure that the gender dimension is brought out in each of the other modules. This point will also be raised during upcoming planning meetings with the civilian training unit, which is designing a generic, standardized training package for civilian peacekeeping personnel.

6. **We would be interested in being informed on the follow-up action taken by the Secretariat to convene the meeting requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to discuss ways and means of meeting challenges in the areas of conduct and discipline and minimizing misconduct.**

Following a thorough review of existing policies and procedures on disciplinary issues for all categories of personnel, in July, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided all missions with an updated set of disciplinary directives. These cover the issue of sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as other

types of serious misconduct. In the coming months, the Department will review existing efforts to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation at the mission level, and to identify good practice for replication elsewhere. Following this stock-taking exercise, the Department will inform Member States on progress made and its strategy for addressing the problem of sexual abuse and exploitation at the earliest opportunity.

Question raised by Canada and addressed to Amy Smythe

7. **We would be interested in Amy Smythe's views on challenges she has faced in ensuring that information finds its way from the field to the Council.**

When the Security Council visited Bunia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo this year, they heard first-hand accounts from women of how the conflict had affected their lives. Many of these accounts left a deep impression on the Council members. However, the final Council report on the visit made only passing reference to how the conflict had affected their lives.

Request for further information from Indonesia

8. **We would like to have further information on plans to establish a database of gender specialists and women's groups and networks in countries and regions in conflict.**

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs have established an "eminent persons roster" to facilitate the identification of senior personnel for peacekeeping missions. In addition, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women taking lead roles, has been working on designing a database of gender experts. The roster of P-2 to P-5 gender experts would primarily be used by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations but would also be made available to other entities. The aim of the initiative is to improve the Department's access to gender expertise for peacekeeping operations. A total of 2,480 applications have been received so far for the generic posts under social affairs/gender from the P-2 to P-5 grades; these are currently under review.